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# **IKE Celebrates June Birthdays**

**By MC3 Nathan Parde** 5 Star Staff Writer

celebration was held Wednesday aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (IKE) for Sailors who celebrate their birthday in June.

The formal dinner was held in the first class mess and came fully dressed with seating escorts, music and a main course of prime rib carved by Capt. Dee L. Mewbourne, IKE's commanding officer.

"The crew and other members involved in organizing this event did a great job setting up the tables and decorations," said PS1(AW/SW) Elsie Lara, who attended the event. "They escorted us one by one to the tables and really made us feel special," she added.

Each Sailor who attended the event was given a folder con-

See DINNER, Page 2



Photo by MCSN Logan Meyer

IKE's Executive Officer Capt. Ted R. Williams smiles with PS1(AW/SW) Elsie Lara as they read the facts about the year Lara was born at the June birthday celebration held in the first class mess Wednesday.

# Alarm Shop Keeps Alert for Danger

By MCSN Ridge Leoni 5 Star Staff Writer

he Interior Communications Electricians assigned to the alarm and warning shop aboard the Nimitzclass aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (IKE) are working hard to keep the crew safe.

The alarm and warning shop specializes in the preventative and corrective maintenance on various types of the alarms; alarms installed to notify everyone of specific hazards or danger in the work place.

Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Bethany Beistle of the Engineering Department, Electrical Division, explained how their job is important to IKE's mission.

"Our shop is responsible for the up keep of a large array of alarms around the ship. A lot of people don't know that there are so many alarms," said Beistle. "In my opinion, it is a good thing that they don't. If you didn't hear them that means there isn't any danger. The alarm and warning shop is important because it helps prevent possible dangers from



Photo by MCSN Ridge Lee

IC3 Bethany Beistle does a routine check on a hydrogen sulfide gas detector.

occurring.

The shop of seven crew members, all second class petty officers and below, maintain numerous alarms around the ship. Their job requires a knowledge of different alarms that have different purposes. Interior Communications Electrician 3rd class Shane McDonald shared the different types of alarms and

warning devices that can be found on IKE.

"We have alarms for various types of reasons and we have routine maintenance on all on them," said McDonald. "We have door alarms for places like the weapons magazines, sprinkler alarms, emergency steering alarms, flooding alarms, halo carbon monitors and low air

flow monitors. These are just a fraction of the alarms that we maintain."

Corrective maintenance is important in this shop, the skills these Sailors have are vital to other shops because a broken alarm can be life threatening. Beistle explains the skills and knowledge learned while working in the alarm and warning shop

"To work in our shop we have to be efficient when it comes to troubleshooting alarms and we must be able to know what the possible problems are," said Beistle. "The basic knowledge we must know in the shop is that we know how to fix false alarms."

Although the shop is small compared to others, this shop of seven works hard to make sure other the departments are safe and they do it by team work. McDonald shared what the chemistry in the alarm and work shop is like.

"Anything that needs to be done, we make sure everyone does what they need to do so that we don't fall behind in our work," said McDonald. "It's like a small family here. We all have each other's back."

# Selective Reenlistment Bonus Program Suspended for Rest of Fiscal Year

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

ased on the number of Sailors who have enlisted this year under the selective reenlistment bonus program (SRB), the Navy reached its congressional authority funding limit for this fiscal year.

More than 10,000 Sailors have reenlisted with a reenlistment bonus. Accordingly, the Navy has suspended the SRB program for the remainder of the fiscal year.

SRB requests received by Navy Personnel Command-811 prior to the release of NA-VADMIN 176/09 through the Officer Personnel Information System will still be processed. Less than 685 Sailors remain in the eligibility window to reenlist with a SRB this fiscal year.

"The Navy will continue its strong commitment to the SRB program, and it remains a critical component of our overall retention efforts," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel. "I want to assure Sailors that the SRB program will continue to be available next fiscal year."

SRB award levels for the next fiscal year for qualifying Sailors in specific ratings and NECs will be announced via NAVADMIN later this summer.

SRB is a dynamic marketbased incentive designed to retain those Sailors in the Navy's most critical ratings and NECs.

"This bonus is just one piece of Navy's world-class pay and compensation package, and we will continue to work to maintain and improve this package that sustains our Navy," said Ferguson.







# PCS Order Writing May Resume In Weeks

By MC1(AW) LaTunya Howard
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

he chief of naval personnel (CNP) said June 15 that he is optimistic that permanent change of station (PCS) order writing would resume within a few weeks.

Via video stream, Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson spoke to more than 600 Navy counselors, career counselors and command master chiefs attending the 21st annual Navy Counselor Association (NCA) symposium here.

The Navy's \$350 million budget shortfall was partially responsible for the hold on PCS transfers throughout the summer.

Changes with the orderwriting accounting system were another factor affecting the PCS transfers hold. The Navy now requires funding for orders when they are written versus when the orders are executed. This paired with record retention and fewer separations due to attrition has slowed the number of Sailors leaving active duty and required the Navy to divert money for payroll rather than previously budgeted programs.

"Manpower costs are one of the fastest growing components of the budget. It's growing at about four to six percent a year and is much higher than inflation," said Ferguson.

CNP explained Navy's force stabilization objectives to the

audience indicating where the Navy is with end strength, how it got there and where the Navy is headed.

"The anticipated retention rate was 52 to 54 percent; we are at 60 percent retention for Zone A. This behavior is tracking with the rate of unemployment," said Ferguson.

Zone A Sailors have less than six years of service, and six percent more of these Sailors than projected are choosing to stay Navy, contributing to the Navy's budget shortfall.

The NCA symposium runs from June 15-19. This year's theme is "Building a Top 50 Organization." Emphasis areas include benefits, force stabilization and Sailor performance. Other topics covered at the symposium include career development boards, sponsorship and command indoctrination, Perform to Serve expansion to Zones B and C and electronic service records.

# Coalition's Iraq Withdrawal Plans on Track, Officials Say

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Verything is on track for the withdrawal of American troops from the cities of Iraq, Iraqi and coalition officials said this week.

Iraqi security forces are set to assume responsibility for the areas, Iraqi spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said at a June 15 news conference.

"The step of withdrawal of American forces from the city will be a main step in this effort," he said. "And the Iraqi government is committed to receive all the security responsibility and protect security, protect its citizens and all foreigners who are working and living in Iraq."

The security forces also will provide protection for embassies, foreign missions and the commercial and cultural missions working in Iraq, he added.

The spokesman also noted the longer-range goal of withdrawal of all American combat forces from Iraq by December 2011. "The Iraqi government affirms that the American forces will complete ... the withdrawal of the combat forces at the specific time, and will leave limited numbers from the technicians with our security forces for the purpose of training, and will operate some equipment based on the request of the Iraqi government," he said.

The United States remains firmly committed to fulfilling the terms of the security agreement, said Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commander of Multinational Force

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"In accordance with this security agreement, U.S. combat forces will leave the cities on 30 June, and it will be a great day for the Iraqi people," the general said. The improvements in security and the professionalism of the Iraqi army and police have enabled this step, he added.

The withdrawal includes the city of Mosul and the province of Ninevah. A few months ago, Odierno acknowledged, he had reservations about pulling out of Mosul. Meanwhile, Iraqi security forces have increased their presence in the city.

"We have had very successful operations in Mosul over the last 45 days," Odierno said. "We have been able to detain several key leaders. I feel much more comfortable now where we're at in Mosul."

The flow of foreign fighters into Iraq has decreased significantly, Odierno said. "In fact, for the most part, it's been just a trickle," he said, crediting border enforcement inside Iraq and Syrian cooperation. Al-Qaida in Iraq has been degraded significantly, and though the terror group still can launch attacks, it is becoming more difficult, the general said

"The dark days of previous years are behind us," he added. "Today, Iraqis are able to lead more normal lives, more children are in schools, restaurants are beginning to open, shops are doing business, and parliament is meeting."

The numbers of attacks in Iraq has dropped signifi-

cantly. Military officials said the number of attacks in May was at the lowest level since August 2003. Attacks against civilians, attacks against Iraqi security forces and attacks against coalition forces all are down.

"Across Iraq, attacks remain low as a result of the strong partnership between Iraqi and U.S. security forces, forged in tough fighting during the surge of operations that began in January of 2007," Odierno said.

Since the U.S.-Iraq security agreement took effect in January, coalition forces have closed or returned 142 bases to Iraq control. "And since last September, we have reduced over 30,000 Multinational Force Iraq troops in all of Iraq," the general said.

Coalition forces had operated from about 460 bases, and now operate from about 320. "We will continue to reduce those this year," Odierno said, "and we will continue to reduce both our forces and the number of bases in 2010 and through December of 2011, when we will be completely withdrawn from Iraq."

"Enablers" such as logistics and aircraft are on track, said Iraqi Defense Minister Abdul Qader Mohammad Jassim al-Mafrji.

"We will have capabilities for helicopter support starting the middle of 2010," al-Mafrji said. "This will grow gradually, but [we] plan to be able at the end of 2011 to have complete support. The support also needs logistical support, and logistical support is focused greatly on mede-

## • **DINNER**, From Page 1

taining information about the year they were born, including gas prices, famous actors and actresses, and top movies of the

"The birthday celebration was a wonderful experience," said Lara. "I have been on three carriers, and this is the first time I was able to celebrate my birthday along with other Sailors onboard during a deployment."

Capt. Ted R. Williams, IKE's executive officer, and Master Chief Bryan Exum, IKE's command master chief joined Capt. Mewbourne serving of some of the food and beverages at the dinner.

"I think it was awesome that the CO, XO, and CMC along with other officers took a few hours out of their busy schedules to celebrate with us," said Lara. "Not only did they serve us, but afterwards the CO and the other officers that contributed to the celebration took a seat at our tables, ate, and spent time chatting with us."

Lara complimented the supply department and the others involved on the hospitality she received and the quality of the food served.

She added that she believes the command should continue to hold the monthly birthday celebration for Sailors because it was such a memorable and uplifting experience.

"It's the small things in life that count, especially when you are away from those you love the most; in my case, it's my two daughters Jenny and Steph," said Lara. "Thanks so much to those that made this happen!"

The event was designed to promote morale and give Sailors more meaning to their birthdays while on deployment.

"I feel that it is a morale booster, and if there are Sailors who did not attend on their birth month, they missed what I would consider a very special moment," said Lara. "I am really happy I attended. There is nothing I would change since everything seemed perfect."

If you have a birthday coming up and would like more information on how to sign up for the command's monthly birthday dinner, contact the Administrative Training Office.



Capt. Dee L. Mewbourne, IKE's commanding officer and Chief Warrant Officer Thomas W. Cummings, IKE's Food Service Officer, put a slice of prime rib onto a plate for one of the Sailors who attended IKE's monthly birthday celebration in the first class mess Wednesday.

## **Right Spirit Plan of the Day Note**

Nearly two-thirds of children under 15 who died in alcoholrelated crashes between 1985 and 1996 were riding with the drinking driver. More than two-thirds of the drinking drivers were old enough to be the parent of the child who was killed, and fewer than 20% of the children killed were properly restrained at the time of the crash.

## **3M Question of the Day**

What documents are required to be reviewed by the maintenance person when the maintenance check involves hazardous material(HAZMAT)?

HMUG, OPNAVINST 5100.19E VOL II and MSDS

# PROFILE/SPORTS





# Falcons Mates Say Ryan Making 'Scary' Improvement

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

yan's teammates say the quarterback will be even better in 2009 than he was when he won widespread acclaim as the NFL's offensive rookie of the year last

"By leaps and bounds," Atlanta fullback Ovie Mughelli said of Ryan on Wednesday as the Falcons approached the end of their organized team activities. "It's actually scary how much he's improved and it's only his second year. People thought he couldn't get much better than last year.

"In the weight room, what he's done out here, his arm strength, the way he reads plays, he's gotten better in every aspect."

The Falcons will have their last day of workouts Thursday and begin training camp on Aug.

Ryan led the Falcons to an 11-5 record -- an unexpected jump from a 4-12 finish in 2007 -- and a playoff spot last season.

Michael Turner rushed for 1,699 yards and 17 touchdowns in his first season as a full-time starter, and Roddy White had 88 receptions for 1,382 yards.

Ryan, Turner, White and Mughelli have been joined by 10-time Pro Bowl tight end Tony Gonzalez, who was acquired from Kansas City.

The Falcons, who a year ago were a popular pick to finish last in the NFC South, now look like a rising force, especially on of-

"The thing you see out there across the board is confidence, starting with Matt at quarterback, all the way down," said center Todd McClure. "Everybody just has a different confidence than we had even last year, because we were trying to learn a new system. Now we have a year under our belt and that confidence can take us a long way if we can just stay together."

Coach Mike Smith says he has focused on the Falcons' passing game in the organized work-

"Matt is making good decisions and being accurate with the football," Smith said. "I don't think those two traits can be overlooked. That's what we've emphasized with Matt, make better decisions and to be more accurate throwing the football."

Ryan says the Falcons already are preparing to deal with increased expectations.

"I heard a quote from coach Smith, 'expect to win but don't get caught up in expectations,"" Ryan said. "I think that's pretty pertinent because you can't worry about all the long-term stuff. You just have to go out there and have confidence in yourself and not worry about all the long-term stuff that goes with it."

Ryan said he began studying film after the Falcons' playoff loss to Arizona as he focused on making better decisions in key situations.

"The No. 1 thing going into the offseason for me was to improve the decision making and



Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan scoring against the Saints last year. As a rookie, Ryan led Atlanta to an 11-5 finish and was named the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year.

so I've watched a ton of film, just trying to get better and to sharpen up for next season," he said. "I'm going to continue to do that for the next two or three months."

Ryan completed 61.1 percent of his passes for 3,440 yards with 16 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. He said there's much room to reach the levels of improvement that Mughelli sees.

"Quarterbacks make their living on third down and in the red zone, so those are areas I felt I could improve on from last year," he said. "You also make your living at the end of the game so you want to make good plays and make good decisions in twominute situations, so those are areas I definitely focused on."

## **MLB SCORES**

## WEDNESDAY

White Sox 4, Cubs 1

Mets 4, Baltimore 6

Florida 1, Boston 6

Atlanta 3, Reds 4

Angels 4, San Francisco 3

**Brewers 9, Cleveland 8** 

Houston 4, Texas 5

Pittsburgh 8, Minnesota 2

Toronto 7, Philadelphia 1 Washington 3, Yankees 2

Arizona 12, Kansas City 5

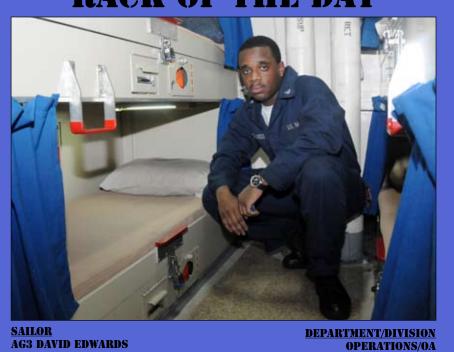
**Detroit 3, St. Louis 4** 



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## RACK OF THE DAY



# United Through Reading

## Sign-Ups Now Available

- Sailors can now sign-up for sessions for the United Through Reading program using Outlook by going to the public folders tab, all public folders and clicking the UTR Reader's calendar
- Filming sessions are 30 minutes each in **Eisenhower Room** (**IKE Room**).
- Filming times/location (subject to change due to ships schedule, please be flexible):
- Children's books are available for checkout at the ship's library (03-118-10-L). It is highly recommended that Sailors read the book prior to the filming session. Sailors can also bring their own books.
- For more information, contact RPC Music at J-6450.

## SPACE OF THE DAY



SAILORS 0S2(SW/AW) JESSICA ATHANAS, 0S2(SW) EMMANUEL NAPOLEON

**Channel 5** 

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION OPERATIONS/OX

Channel 6

#### **Commanding Officer:**

CAPT Dee L. Mewbourne

#### **Public Affairs Officer:**

LT Tommy Crosby

#### **Assistant Public Affairs Officer:**

LTJG Beth Gauck

#### **Visual Information Officer:**

ENS Benjamin Addison

### Media Department LCPO:

MCCS(SW/AW) Christina Johnson

#### Media Department LPO:

MC1(SW/AW) Jeffrey McDowell

## Media Productions LPO: MC1(AW) Melissa Robertson-Leake

Editor/Layout and Design: MC2(SW) Adam Prince

## C4 - **ff X**V--**:**4 - ---

Staff Writers: MC3(SW) Patrick Gearhiser MC3 Nathan Parde MCSN Ridge Leoni

Channel 7

MCSN Logan Meyer

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**Channel 8** 

# FRIDAY'S IKE MOVIE SCHEDULE

#### Channel 5 Channel 6 Channel 7 **Channel 8** Good Luck Chuck 9 a.m. 9 a.m. Idlewild 9 a.m. The Descent 9 a.m. Right Spirit Tale of Despereaux Christmas Story **Enemy Mine** 11 a.m 11 a.m. 11 a.m. 11 a.m. Right Spirit for Officers 1 p.m. Stripes 1 p.m. Marley and Me Ironman 1 p.m. Right Choice 1 p.m. Are We There Yet? Journey to the Center of the Earth Right Spirit 3 p.m. 3 p.m. War of the Worlds 3 p.m. 3 p.m. Longest Yard Right Spirit for Officers 5 p.m. 5 p.m. Mamma Mia 5 p.m. Broken Arrow 5 p.m. 7 p.m. IKE News Re-Broadcast Good Luck Chuck 8:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m. Idlewild 8:30 p.m. The Descent Right Choice Tale of Despereaux 10 p.m. 10 p.m. Christmas Story 10 p.m. Enemy Mine 10 p.m. Right Spirit 12 a.m. Stripes Marley and Me 12 a.m. Ironman 12 a.m. Right Spirit for Officers Are We There Yet? 2 a.m. War of the Worlds 2 a.m. Journey to the Center of the Earth 2 a.m. Right Choice 4 a.m. Longest Yard Mamma Mia 4 a.m. Broken Arrow 4 a.m. Right Spirit

# SATURDAY'S IKE MOVIE SCHEDULE

9 a.m.	What Happens in Vegas	9 a.m.	Desert Rats	9 a.m.	Flight Plan	9 a.m.	Chemical, Bio., & Nuclear Threat To Forces
11 a.m.	Bedtime Stories	11 a.m.	Phat Girlz	11 a.m.	Armageddon	11 a.m.	Firefighting Hangar Deck Fires
1 p.m.	Fred Claus	1 p.m.	Family That Preys	1 p.m.	King Kong, Part A	1 p.m.	Fire On The Flight Deck!
3 p.m.	Little Man	3 p.m.	In Her Shoes	3 p.m.	King Kong, Part B	3 p.m.	Chemical, Bio., & Nuclear Threat To Forces
5 p.m.	Garfield 2	5 p.m.	Lucky You	5 p.m.	Forbidden Kingdom	5 p.m.	Firefighting Hangar Deck Fires
7 p.m.	IKE News	7 p.m.	IKE News	7 p.m.	IKE News	7 p.m.	IKE News
8:30 p.m.	What Happens in Vegas	8:30 p.m.	Desert Rats	8:30 p.m.	Flight Plan	8:30 p.m.	Fire On The Flight Deck!
10 p.m.	Bedtime Stories	10 p.m.	Phat Girlz	10 p.m.	Armageddon	10 p.m.	Chemical, Bio., & Nuclear Threat To Forces
12 a.m.	Fred Claus	12 a.m.	Family That Preys	12 a.m.	King Kong, Part A	12 a.m.	Firefighting Hangar Deck Fires
2 a.m.	Little Man	2 a.m.	In Her Shoes	2 a.m.	King Kong, Part B	2 a.m.	Chemical, Bio., & Nuclear Threat To Forces
4 a.m.	Garfield 2	4 a.m.	Lucky You	4 a.m.	Forbidden Kingdom	4 a.m.	Firefighting Hangar Deck Fires